

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09572 131307Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 OMB-01 RSR-01 /117 W

----- 072261

R 131200Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3707

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BEIRUT 9572

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. '11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR XF GR

SUBJECT: REACTION IN LEBANON TO DIVERSION OF MEA PLANE

REF: BEIRUT 9534 (NOTAL)

1. MOST BEIRUT PAPERS AUG. 13 CARRIED STATEMENT BY DEPT. SPOKESMAN DEPLORING AUG. 10 DIVERSION OF MEA FLIGHT TO ISRAEL, BUT -- EXCEPT FOR TWO RIGHT-WING DAILIES -- LARGELY WITHOUT EMPHASIS AND ENTIRELY WITHOUT COMMENT.

2. AT SAME TIME, MOST PAPERS -- ESPECIALLY LEFTIST, PRO-FEDAYEEN PRESS -- GIVING MUCH PLAY TO UPI INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE HABASH (REFTEL), IN WHICH HE ALLEGED THIS EMBASSY'S INVOLVEMENT IN INCIDENT; TO AUG. 12 ANNOUNCEMENT HERE BY PFLP SPOKESMAN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 09572 131307Z

BASSAM ABU SHARIF, WHO CHARGED EMBASSY AND CIA HAD

TIPPED OFF ISRAELIS RE HABASH'S TRAVEL PLANS; AND  
TO AUG. 11 ITEM IN PLO (Wafa) DAILY BULLETIN,  
WHICH RESURRECTED EGYPTIAN AL AKHBAR'S CHARGE THAT  
USG HAS ESTABLISHED "HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE", COMPOSED  
OF ROGERS, KISSINGER, COLBY AND AMB MEYER,  
TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ON FEDAYEEN FOR PURPOSE  
OF "LIQUIDATING" PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. CERTAIN  
PAPERS ALSO VOCAL IN DENUNCIATION OF LEBANESE  
ARMY'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO CHALLENGE ISRAELI AIRCRAFT  
AUG. 10.

3. EDITORIALY, INDEPENDENT AN NAHR APPEALED TO  
PALESTINIANS TO UNDERTAKE NO NEW ACTIONS AGAINST  
ISRAEL THAT MIGHT CAUSE WORLD TO "FORGET PIRACY  
COMMITTED BY ISRAEL OVER BEIRUT". URGED FEDAYEEN  
LEADERS DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM ANY "CRIMINAL  
ACTS" THAT MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT BY "IRRESPONSIBLE  
ELEMENTS ... ACTING AT ISRAELI INSTIGATION". PRO-  
FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR DESCRIBED AUG. 21 INCIDENT AS  
PROOF ISRAEL NOT "INFALLIBLE". SAID ISRAEL'S  
"MISTAKE...WAS BIGGEST GIFT IT COULD OFFER TO  
PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN, ESPECIALLY THEIR EXTREMIST  
ELEMENTS."  
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, ESPIONAGE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BEIRUT09572  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730842/aaaabeyn.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BEIRUT 9534 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <06-Sep-2001 by reddocgw, 3.4.X6, (REFER TO CIA IN THE TEXT)>; RELEASED <08 FEB 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION IN LEBANON TO DIVERSION OF MEA PLANE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, LE, IS, US, MID EAST AIRLINES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005